AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A method for preparing a recombinant adenoviral vector comprising the steps of:

(a) introducing into a prokaryotic cell:

(i) a first DNA fragment comprising all or part of an adenoviral genome, the encapsidation region and the 3' and 5'ITRs and

(ii) a second DNA fragment comprising said exogenous DNA sequence surrounded by flanking sequences A and B which are homologous to (i), and

(b) culturing the prokaryotic cell obtained in (a) under suitable culture conditions to allow intermolecular homologous recombination and insertion of the exogenous DNA into the first DNA fragment to occur, and recovering the resulting recombinant adenoviral vector;

wherein the recombinant adenoviral vector comprises said adenoviral genome including the encapsidation region and the 3' and 5' ITRs and lacking all or part of the E1, E2, E3 and/or E4 regions.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, characterized in that the adenovirus is an adenovirus of human, canine, avian, bovine, murine, ovine, porcine or simian origin.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, characterized in that the adenovirus is a hybrid adenovirus.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 25 characterized in that the adenovirus is a type CAV-2 adenovirus of canine origin.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 25, characterized in that the adenovirus is a serotype C adenovirus of human origin.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 25, characterized in that the adenovirus is a type 5 adenovirus of human origin.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, characterized in that said exogenous DNA sequence codes for a polypeptide of therapeutic interest selected from the group consisting of coagulation factors, growth hormones, cytokines, lymphokines, tumour-suppressing polypeptides, cell receptors, ligands for cell receptors, protease inhibitors, antibodies, toxins, immunotoxins, dystrophin and polypeptides participating in cellular ion channels.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 30, wherein said polypeptide participating in cellular ion channels is a CFTR protein.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, characterized in that the homologous flanking sequences A and B are from 10 consecutive bp to 10 consecutive kb in length.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, characterized in that the first DNA fragment is linearized in the insertion region of the exogenous sequence.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, for the preparation of a recombinant viral vector which is defective for replication.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 34, for the preparation of a recombinant adenoviral vector lacking all or part of at least one region essential for replication, selected from the E1, E2 and E4 regions.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 35, characterized in that the recombinant adenoviral vector lacks, in addition, all or part of the E3 region.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, characterized in that said prokaryotic cell is a recBC strain of Escherichia coli.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 24, for the preparation of a recombinant viral vector of at least 30 kb.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): A method for preparing an infectious viral particle containing a recombinant viral vector obtained by carrying out a method according to claim 24, according to which:

(a) said recombinant viral vector is introduced into a mammalian cell to generate a transfected mammalian cell,

(b) said transfected mammalian cell is cultured under suitable conditions to permit the production of said viral particle, and

(c) said viral particle is recovered from the cell culture obtained in step (b).

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): A method for preparing a recombinant adenoviral vector comprising the steps of:

(a) introducing into a prokaryotic cell:

(i) a first DNA fragment comprising all or part of an adenoviral genome, and

(ii) a second DNA fragment comprising said exogenous DNA sequence surrounded by flanking sequences A and B which are homologous to (i), wherein the encapsidation region, the 3' and/or 5'ITRs are comprised in the first or in the second DNA fragment and

(b) culturing the prokaryotic cell obtained in (a) under suitable culture conditions to allow homologous recombination and insertion of the

exogenous DNA into the first DNA fragment to occur, and recovering the resulting recombinant adenoviral vector;

wherein the recombinant adenoviral vector comprises said adenoviral genome including the encapsidation region and the 3' and 5'ITRs and lacking all or part of the E1, E2, E3 and/or E4 regions, and further comprises the exogenous DNA sequence.